

What is claimed is:

1. A method for regenerating the NOx catalyst in a NOx purifying system provided in the exhaust passage with a direct reduction type NOx catalyst which directly decomposes the NOx during lean-condition operation and is regenerated during rich-condition operation, comprising the step of, prohibiting the rich-condition control when the temperature detected by a catalyst temperature detecting means is within a predetermined temperature range.

2. A NOx purifying system provided in the exhaust gas passage with a direct reduction type NOx catalyst which directly decomposes the NOx in the exhaust gas during lean-condition operation and is regenerated during rich-condition operation, comprising a catalyst temperature detecting means, and a control device for controlling to prohibit the rich-condition control when the temperature detected by said catalyst temperature detecting means is within a predetermined temperature range.